

CLAIMS

We claim:

- 1 1. A system comprising:
2 a first system for issuing scrip, the scrip including a value identifying a
3 recipient of the scrip; and
4 a second system in communication with the first system for issuing a refund
5 for the scrip issued by the first system, the second system adapted to
6 use the value identifying the recipient of the scrip to verify the
7 recipient of the refund.
- 1 2. The system of claim 1, further comprising:
2 a third system in communication with the first and second systems for
3 receiving the scrip including the value identifying the recipient of the
4 scrip from the first system and for receiving the refund for the scrip
5 from the second system.
- 1 3. The system of claim 2, wherein the third system is adapted to store one or
2 more nonces utilized to create the value in the scrip identifying the recipient of the scrip.
- 1 4. The system of claim 1, wherein the first system is adapted to receive
2 information identifying the recipient of the scrip prior to issuing the scrip to the recipient.
- 1 5. The system of claim 4, wherein the first system is further adapted to hash
2 the received information identifying the recipient with a nonce and store the hash in the
3 issued scrip.
- 1 6. The system of claim 5, wherein the received information identifying the
2 recipient is a hash of identifying information with a second nonce.
- 1 7. The system of claim 1, wherein the second system is further adapted to
2 receive from the recipient of the scrip identity information and at least one nonce for
3 deriving the value identifying the recipient of the scrip.

1 8. A scrip for use in an electronic commerce system, the scrip comprising:
 2 a first field containing a first value from which a broker and a vendor can
 3 verify that a consumer possesses the right to exchange the scrip; and
 4 a second field containing a second value derived from information identifying
 5 the consumer, wherein the broker and vendor can use the second value
 6 to verify the identity of the consumer.

1 9. The scrip of claim 8, wherein the second value is derived from the
 2 information identifying the consumer hashed with at least one nonce.

1 10. The scrip of claim 8, further comprising:
 2 a third field containing a third value indicating the latest date on which the
 3 scrip can be refunded.

1 11. A method of providing a refund in an electronic commerce system,
 2 comprising the steps of:
 3 receiving, by a second party from a first party, electronic currency for which
 4 the first party seeks a refund, wherein the electronic currency includes
 5 a first value derived from information identifying the first party;
 6 receiving, by the second party from the first party, the information identifying
 7 the first party and instructions for deriving the first value from the
 8 identifying information;
 9 using, by the second party, the instructions for deriving the first value from the
 10 identifying information to derive a second value from the provided
 11 information identifying the first party;
 12 comparing, by the second party, the second value with the first value; and
 13 enabling, by the second party, a refund for the electronic currency if the first
 14 value matches the second value.

1 12. The method of claim 11, wherein the step of receiving the information
 2 identifying the first party and instructions for deriving the first value from the identifying
 3 information comprises the steps of:
 4 receiving, by the second party, information uniquely identifying the first
 5 party; and

6 receiving, by second party, at least one nonce with which the information
 7 uniquely identifying the first party is hashed to produce the second
 8 value.

1 13. The method of claim 11, wherein the information identifying the first
 2 party includes a predetermined value.

1 14. The method of claim 13, wherein the predetermined value is a text string.

1 15. ~~The method of claim 11, further comprising the steps of:~~
 2 ~~issuing, by the second party to the first party, a refund coupon entitling the~~
 3 ~~first party to a refund for the electronic currency.~~

1 16. The method of claim 15, further comprising the steps of:
 2 receiving, by a third party from the first party, the refund coupon and the
 3 electronic currency for which the first party seeks a refund;
 4 receiving, by the third party from the first party, an identification value for
 5 electronic currency previously issued by the third party; and
 6 issuing, by the third party to the first party, electronic currency having the
 7 provided identification value.

8 17. A computer readable medium having computer instructions encoded
 9 thereon for directing a computer system to provide a refund in an electronic commerce
 10 system, the computer instructions comprising instructions for:
 11 receiving a request to refund electronic currency, the electronic currency
 12 including a value identifying the party to whom the currency was
 13 issued;
 14 receiving identifying information identifying the party seeking the refund;
 15 verifying that the received identifying information matches the value in the
 16 electronic currency identifying the party to whom the electronic
 17 currency was issued; and
 18 responsive to a positive verification, entitling the party to whom the electronic
 19 currency was issued to a refund for the electronic currency.

1 18. The computer readable medium of claim 17, further comprising
2 instructions for:
3 receiving values to be utilized for transforming the information identifying the
4 party seeking the refund into the value identifying the party to whom
5 the currency was issued.

1 19. The computer readable medium of claim 18, wherein the instructions for
2 receiving values comprise instructions for:
3 receiving one or more nonces with which the information identifying the party
4 seeking the refund is hashed to produce the value identifying the party
5 to whom the currency was issued.

1 20. The computer readable medium of claim 17, wherein the instructions for
2 entitling the party to whom the currency was issued to a refund for the electronic currency
3 comprise instructions for:
4 issuing a refund coupon to the party seeking the refund;
5 wherein the party seeking the refund can use the refund coupon to refund the
6 electronic currency at a party who issued the electronic currency.

1 21. The computer readable medium of claim 17 further comprising
2 instructions for:
3 receiving electronic currency containing a first value identifying the party to
4 whom the currency was issued;
5 hashing the first value identifying the party to whom the currency was issued
6 with a nonce to form a second value identifying the party to whom the
7 currency was issued; and
8 issuing electronic currency incorporating the second value identifying the
9 party to whom the currency was issued; wherein
10 the received request to refund electronic currency comprises a request to
11 refund the electronic currency incorporating the second value.